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DALTON-IN-FURNESS
URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1948.



DALTON-IN-FURNESS:
J. SINKINSON & SON, PRINTERS,
1949

Dalton-in-Furness Urban District Council.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Dalton-in-Furness.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1948.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1948.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres) 8,022.

Population 10,480

Number of inhabited houses 3,117

Rateable Value £40,149.

Amount produced by a Penny Rate £150.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS.—One hundred and eighty-four births, 81 male and 103 female were registered during the year, giving a birth-rate of 17.5 per 1,000 compared with a rate of 20.8 per 1,000 in 1947. Eight of the total births were of illegitimate children.

STILLBIRTHS.—Three children were stillborn during the year, giving a stillbirth rate of 16 per 1,000 total births.

DEATHS.—One hundred and thirty-four deaths of residents, 61 male and 73 female, were registered during the year, giving a death-rate of 12.7 per 1,000, compared with a rate of 12.5 per 1,000 in 1947.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—There were fourteen deaths of infants under 1 year of age, giving an infantile mortality rate of 76 per 1,000 live births. The sex, age and causes of deaths were :—

Male	5 months	Toxæmia due to bronchial-pneumonia
Male	15 hours	Prematurity.
Male	3 days	Prematurity, maternal toxæmia, hydrænia.
Female	3 days	Broncho-pneumonia, prematurity.
Male	3 months	Intussusception (12 hours after operation).
Female	1 month	Congenital debility.
Male	9 hours	Atelectasis, prematurity (28 weeks) Placenta Prævia (mother).
Male	2 days	Prematurity (28 weeks fœtus) also immature.
Male	1 day	Prematurity.
Male	1 day	Prematurity due to maternal toxæmia.
Male	2 days	Congenital atelectasis.
Female	2 weeks	Congenital heart disease.
Female	1 month	Congenital debility.
Male	6 days	Prematurity, maternal pre-eclampsia with multiple pregnancy.

DEATHS FROM DIARRHŒA & ENTERITIS under 2 years of age—Nil.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.—Nil.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The table below shows the causes of death of Dalton residents in 1948.

CAUSES OF DEATH		MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	...	...	—
2	Measles	...	...	—
3	Scarlet Fever	...	...	—
4	Whooping Cough	...	...	—
5	Diphtheria	...	...	—
6	Influenza	...	...	—
7	Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	—
8	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	—
9	T.B. of respiratory system	...	1	5
10	Other tuberculosis diseases	...	—	—
11	Syphilis	...	—	—
12	General Paralysis of the Insane	...	—	—
13	Cancer, malignant disease	...	9	10
14	Diabetes	...	—	1
15	Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	6	7
16	Heart Disease	...	21	20
17	Aneurysm	...	2	—
18	Other circulatory diseases	...	—	—
19	Bronchitis	...	2	1
20	Pneumonia all forms	...	3	4
21	Other respiratory diseases	...	—	—
22	Peptic Ulcer	...	1	—
23	Diarrhoea — 2	...	—	—
	Diarrhoea + 2	...	—	—
24	Appendicitis	...	—	—
25	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	—	—
26	Other diseases of liver	...	—	—
27	Other digestive diseases	...	—	—
28	Acute and chronic nephritis	...	1	2
29	Puerperal Sepsis	...	—	—
30	Other puerperal causes	...	—	—
31	Congenital debility, malformation, premature birth, etc...	...	8	3
32	Senility	...	2	14
33	Suicide	...	1	1
34	Other Violence	...	—	2
35	Other defined diseases...	...	4	3
36	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	—	—
		61	73	134

The principal causes of death of Dalton residents in 1948 as shown by the above table were Heart Disease 41; Cancer 19; and Senility 16. There were 6 deaths from Tuberculosis.

CANCER.—Brief particulars of the 19 deaths from this disease are shown below:—

Site	Male	Female	Total
Stomach	2	3	5
Rectum	2	1	3
Pancreas	2	—	2
Other sites, single cases	3	6	9
	—	—	—
	9	10	19

The table below shows comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales, 148 smaller towns and this district.

Year	England and Wales		148 Smaller Towns 25-50,000 pop.		Dalton-in-Furness Urban	
	Births	Deaths	Births	Deaths	Births	Deaths
1944	17.6	11.6	20.9	12.4	19.6	12.0
1945	16.1	11.4	19.2	12.3	15.4	13.1
1946	19.1	11.5	21.3	11.7	17.6	14.3
1947	20.5	12.0	22.2	11.9	20.8	12.5
1948	17.9	10.8	19.2	10.7	17.5	12.7

The age distribution of deaths in 1948 is shown below:—

-1	1	5	10	15	20	30	40	50	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	TOTAL
14	1	—	—	1	2	6	5	10	14	15	17	18	16	12	3	134

60.4% of deaths were in persons 65 and over.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

PERSONNEL. MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:—A. DODD, M.D., Ch.B. M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other Appointments Held:—Medical Officer of Health—Ulverston Combined Sanitary District. Medical Officer—Ulverston Joint Hospital Board (to 4th July, 1948). Divisional Medical Officer—Health Division No. 1, Lancashire County Council (from 5th July, 1948).

SANITARY INSPECTOR:—W. W. JACKSON, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. Meat & Foods Inspectors Certificate R.S.I. Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works.

Other Appointments Held:—Cleansing Superintendent—Dalton-in-Furness Urban District. Housing Officer—Dalton-in-Furness Urban District.

HOSPITAL SERVICES.—Under Part 2 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, which came into operation on 5th July, 1948, all General, Municipal, Infectious Diseases and Special Hospitals were transferred to the administration of Regional Hospital Boards.

Thus the Cottage Hospital, Ulverston (renamed the Ulverston Hospital by the Regional Board), and the major portion of the Institution and Hospital (renamed Stanley Hospital), along with the Oubas House Maternity Home, Ulverston, passed to the administration of the Barrow and District Hospital Management Committee for the Manchester Regional Hospital Board on the 5th July, 1948.

High Carley Isolation Hospital, administered by the Ulverston Joint Hospital Board (of which the Dalton Urban District Council was a constituent member) also passed to the Regional Hospital Board under the Act although the Ulverston Urban District Council continued to administer the Fever Hospital for the Board under an agency agreement during the year.

AMBULANCE SERVICES.—It became the duty, on 5th July, 1948, of the Lancashire County Council to provide an ambulance service in the Dalton District.

During 1948 however, the Urban District Council continued on behalf of the County Council to administer the Service in the Dalton District with the exception that infectious disease cases were conveyed by the ambulance stationed at High Carley Isolation Hospital.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.—Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the hospital laboratory of the Barrow and Furness Hospital Management Committee situated at High Carley Sanatorium, assisted, if necessary, by the Public Health Laboratory at Liverpool. Chemical Analyses, as required, are sent to the City Laboratories, Liverpool.

Maternity and Child Welfare, School Medical, Dental and Health Visiting Services—Ulverston Combined Sanitary District.

These services are provided by the Lancashire County Council. Routine child welfare clinics, minor ailment clinics, dental clinics, and school medical and dental inspections are undertaken by Assistant County Medical and Dental Officers

with health visitors and school nurses. The ophthalmic surgeon, obstetrician and orthopaedic specialist attend the appropriate eye, ante-natal and post-natal and orthopaedic clinics at Ulverston and Dalton. In addition the obstetrician visits the Grange Clinic fortnightly.

The times and places where County Council Clinics are held are shown below.

DALTON—Dowdales Clinic.

Monday	a.m.	Nil.
	p.m.	Immunisation, 1st Mon. each month, 2 p.m.
Tuesday	a.m.	Minor Ailments Redressing Clinic.
	p.m.	Nil.
Wednesday	a.m.	Ophthalmic Clinic.
	p.m.	Antenatal Clinic.
Thursday	a.m.	Minor Ailments and Inspection Clinic.
	p.m.	Child Welfare Clinic.
Friday	a.m.	Nil.
	p.m.	Nil.

ULVERSTON—Brogden Street Clinic.

Monday	a.m.	Minor Ailments Redressing Clinic. Dental Clinic.
	p.m.	Antenatal Clinic. Dental Clinic.
Tuesday	a.m.	Orthopaedic Clinic. Dental Clinic.
	p.m.	Dental Clinic. Orthopaedic Clinic (every 2 months).
Wednesday	a.m.	Minor Ailments and Inspection Clinic.
	p.m.	Child Welfare Centre.
Thursday	a.m.	Ophthalmic Clinic. Dental Clinic.
	p.m.	Dental Clinic.
Friday	a.m.	Dental Clinic.
	p.m.	Immunisation, 1st Fri. each month, 2 p.m. Dental Clinic.

GRANGE—Congregational Sunday School, Kents Bank Road.

Tuesday fortnightly, p.m., Child Welfare Centre.
2nd and 4th Friday each month, a.m., Antenatal Clinic.

CONISTON—Church Rooms, Yewdale Road.

1st Friday each month, p.m., Child Welfare Centre.

KIRKBY—Beckside School.

3rd Friday each month, p.m., Child Welfare Centre.

GRAYTHWAITE—Hazelseat.

1st Wednesday each month, p.m., Child Welfare Centre.

HAWKSHEAD—Town Hall.

Last Wednesday, each month, p.m., Child Welfare Centre.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLIES.—The Urban District of Dalton-in-Furness is provided with water by the Barrow-in-Furness Corporation in mains belonging to the County Borough Council. Dalton is supplied from the Poaka Beck Reservoir and Askam from the Ulpha Intake of the River Duddon.

There was no shortage of water during the year 1948.

Samples of water were examined bacteriologically on the dates and from the places shown below:—

Water from Town Hall, Dalton, 6th September, 1948.

Probable number of coliform bacilli per 100 ml. — 0.

No faecal coli.

Water from Newton School, 6th September, 1948.

Probable number of coliform bacilli per 100 ml, — 0.

No faecal coli.

Water from Lindal, 11th October, 1948.

Probable number of coliform bacilli per 100 ml. — 0.

No faecal coli.

Water from 24, Greystone Estate, 11th October, 1948.

Probable number of coliform bacilli per 100 ml. — 5.

Faecal coli present.

Water from Town Hall, Dalton, 11th October, 1948.

Probable number of coliform bacilli per 100 ml. — 3.

Faecal coli present.

The reason for contamination in the case of the water sample from 24, Greystone Estate was found and rectified. All samples from the main gave good reports with the exception of the last mentioned.

It is considered that a pure supply was delivered to consumers.

This supply serves 3,079 dwelling-houses, representing approximately 10,352 persons, direct to the houses, and serves also 4 houses by means of stand-pipes representing another 13

persons. Thirty houses in the Urban District representing approximately 105 persons get a water supply from private sources.

HOUSING.—The shortage of houses continues to be a major problem in the district and one is constantly impressed by the vast amount of unhappiness and trouble resulting from the situation.

At the end of the year the temporary accommodation scheme was complete, all huts being occupied. Permanent housing had been provided by the completion of 34 houses at Ireleth and 6 houses at Little-fields, Dalton, all of which were occupied. A further 20 houses at Anty Cross were well on towards completion and plans for another 36 houses on the same site were well advanced.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—The following table shows the numbers of cases of the notifiable infectious diseases which occurred in the Urban District during the five years 1943-1947, compared with the numbers in 1948:—

DISEASE						1948		
	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	Number of Cases	Removed ^o Hospital	Deaths in Hospital
Scarlet Fever	9	10	1	1	7	37	34	—
Diphtheria	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Typhoid and Para-Typhoid	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	210	2	97	—	2	185	1	—
Whooping Cough	34	—	22	4	3	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	4	24	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever & Pyrexia	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	4	1	1	2	2	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	—	—	1	1	1	1	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	258	22	146	9	18	226	36	—

SCARLET FEVER.—Thirty-seven cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during 1948. These consisted of one adult and thirty-six children. Eighteen of the cases were males and nineteen were females. Thirty-four cases were removed to hospital. All the cases were of a mild type.

In order to determine whether these cases might be related to one another, at the end of July the Laboratory was asked to type the Haemolytic streptococci isolated from the throats in the cases of patients who were admitted to hospital from the Ulverston Combined Sanitary District. The Laboratory typed the organisms throughout August and all the types isolated proved to be different. In view of the large amount of work involved typing was not continued. No evidence was found by this or other means that any carrier was responsible for cases in the district. Coincident with the increase in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified in 1948 in Dalton, rises in the incidence of the disease also occurred in the Rural District and the Urban District of Ulverston.

A carrier came into the Rural District from a nearby county but this was at the end of November.

There was no evidence in any case that the disease was conveyed by milk.

MEASLES.—There was also a huge incidence of Measles compared with the two previous years thus following the cyclic incidence of the disease.

IMMUNISATION.—Under Part 3 of the National Health Services Act, 1946, it became obligatory for local Health Authorities to provide arrangements for immunisation against Diphtheria. As from 5th July, 1948, the duty to provide for immunisation passed from the Dalton-in-Furness Urban District Council to the Lancashire County Council.

Between the 1st January, and the 4th July, 1948, a total of 97 children completed the full course of immunisation under the Local Authority's Scheme, namely: 92 under 5 years of age and 7 between the ages of 5 and 15.

TUBERCULOSIS.—The tuberculosis service in the Ulverston Combined Sanitary District was administered by the Lancashire County Council until 5th July, 1948, when the responsibility for treatment passed to the Regional Hospital Board. The County Council and Sanitary Authority retained responsibility for matters relating to prevention and to care and after-care. A Tuberculosis Health Visitor continued to be provided by the Lancashire County Council. The Dispensary at Ulverston is attended by the Consultant Tuberculosis Officer for the district and the Tuberculosis Health Visitor. Extensive facilities for the investigation and treatment of tuberculosis are available at High Carley Sanatorium, Nr. Ulverston.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1948.—The following table shows the number of new cases and mortality during 1948:—

Age Periods Years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
10—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
20—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—	2	5	—	—	—	5	—	—
35—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
55—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	7	10	3	2	1	5	0	0
	17		5		6		0	

The table below shows the numbers of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis in Dalton Residents during the past 12 years:—

Year	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY		RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1937	4	1	1	4	—	—	1	2
1938	3	7	5	1	1	4	—	1
1939	9	7	7	7	4	5	—	2
1940	5	3	1	1	3	4	—	—
1941	4	4	—	1	1	1	1	—
1942	5	4	4	4	1	4	—	—
1943	12	5	4	5	3	4	—	—
1944	4	4	4	1	5	2	—	—
1945	13	7	1	2	7	1	—	—
1946	4	7	—	2	2	8	1	—
1947	9	8	4	3	2	1	1	—
1948	7	10	3	2	1	5	—	—

It will be noted that the rise in the number of new pulmonary cases notified in 1947 was continued in 1948. This was also accompanied by an increased number of deaths.

In conclusion, I thank the members of the Health Committee and officers of the Dalton-in-Furness Urban District Council, and, in particular, the Sanitary Inspector, for courtesy and help.

The report of the Sanitary Inspector is appended.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

A. DODD,

Medical Officer of Health.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector, Cleansing Superintendent & Housing Officer.

To the Chairman and Members of the Dalton-in-Furness
Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the activities of the Health Department for the year ended 31st December, 1948.

The general work of the department proceeds as well as can be expected in these difficult times. Shortage of materials and to a greater extent shortage of labour, continues to be an embarrassment to speedy progress.

Whilst holding no brief for the bad landlord who deliberately neglects his property, some consideration is due I am convinced, to the increasing discrepancy between the high cost of repairs and the low level of rent obtained in most houses, a circumstance which often causes considerable difficulty and hardship to small property owners.

The department's aim is to get work done without recourse to statutory proceedings, a rather protracted affair at any time. Persuasion is in my opinion better in the long run than wielding the "big stick" which is, I think, better reserved for the odd occasion of deliberate obstruction.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 113

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 146

(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	33
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose				33
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	Nil
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation...	...	...	...	85
2.		<i>Remedy of defects during the Year without service of formal notices :—</i>				
		Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	...	47
3.		<i>Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—</i>				
A.		<i>—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :</i>				
(1)		Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal statutory notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	Nil
(2)		Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	...			
	(a)	By Owners	...	...	...	Nil
	(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners				Nil
B.		<i>—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :</i>				
(1)		Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...			17
(2)		Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	...			
	(a)	By Owners	...	...	...	14
	(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners				1

No proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 Housing Act, 1936 re Demolitions or Section 12 re Underground rooms.

4. *Housing Act, 1936 — Part IV.—Overcrowding:—*

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	13
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	...				21
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	...				101
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	6
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	....	....	....	....	10
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	....	...	...	...	61

MILK SUPPLY.—During the year 117 visits were made to 42 farm premises and farms were, generally speaking, in a satisfactory condition. These house approximately 720 cows. Two unsatisfactory cowsheds at Askam have been closed.

Disused mine buildings at Newton have been converted into T.T. cowsheds with very satisfactory results.

Twelve samples were taken for examination for T.B. by the inoculation test and all proved negative.

Seventeen samples were taken for Bacteriological examination, all except one proving satisfactory; this one was followed up and improvements obtained.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.—Visits were made to the various shops for the purpose of inspection under Section 13, etc., and also for the examination of foodstuffs. The standard of cleanliness was criticised in three cases and improvements effected. Total visits 40.

The following is a list of articles condemned :—

Carcase and offal of one pig	2 cwts. Sugar
48 jars jam	6½ lbs. Cheese
63 tins of evaporated milk	1 lb Bacon
18 tins Sausage	2½ lbs Beef
47 tins peas and beans	34 lbs. Black Puddings
20 tins fruit	61 lbs. Kippers
55 tins meat	108 lbs. Oatmeal
52 tins Fish	1 cwt. Sausage meal
20 tins Soup	8 lbs. Pearl Barley
1 tin grapefruit	22 lbs. Walnuts
4 tins Syrup	1 tin Spaghetti
10 tins meat paste	73 Eggs
8 lbs. Butter	2 pkts. Breakfast Food
14 jars Pickles	6 bottles Orange Juice

OFFENSIVE TRADES.—The offensive trades number six consisting of five Fried Fish Shops and one Knacker's Yard.

Considerable improvements have been made at the Knacker's Yard, but much could still be done to improve the appearance of the surroundings of the premises and I would suggest that every encouragement should be given to the occupier of these premises to encourage him to make the best of what is at any time a type of business liable to create a nuisance.

REFUSE COLLECTION.—The collection of refuse has been carried out with a minimum of trouble, only one complaint being received during the year. I am happy to report a much better spirit existing among the staff although the position still leaves much to be desired.

The Bantam vehicle No. FTC S38 has now given six years service and the time is rapidly approaching when the cost of the upkeep will far exceed the loan charges on a new vehicle.

The new vehicle which came into service on 1st January, has given good service and we have been able to entirely dispense with hired team labour.

Refuse is disposed of at Elliscales and Askam tips by means of crude tipping as has been the case for many years.

There are still twenty nine Privies, six Pail closets and sixty-four dry Ashpits in the district, mostly at outlying premises

During the year 51 tons of paper valued at £325 were and Rags to the value of £8 were disposed of.

The corresponding amounts for the year 1947 were 36 tons of paper valued at £233 and rags to the value of £9.

In conclusion I am happy to record the good feelings existing between various trades of the town and the Health Department in its activities. My thanks are due to the Health Committee, the Medical Officer and other officers of the Council for their unstinted co-operation and to Miss Atkinson and the cleansing staff without whose assistance the work of the Department cannot successfully go on

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. W. JACKSON,

Sanitary Inspector.



